

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1718

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO), AU
SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO WASHINGTON: AUSTRIAN POLICY AND
KREISKY VIEWS ON BELGRADE 77, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DETENTE

REF: STATE 046505

1. AUSTRIANS PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN CSCE NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSIDER HELSINKI FINAL ACT A POLITICAL DOCUMENT OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE TO AUSTRIA, A SMALL MILITARILY NEUTRAL COUNTRY IN CENTRAL EUROPE SURROUNDED LARGELY BY MEMBERS OF OPPOSING MILITARY ALLIANCES. KREISKY, GOA AND AUSTRIAN PUBLIC AT LARGE FEEL ON BALANCE THAT RESULTS OF HELSINKI HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING AND THAT AUSTRIA AS NEUTRAL HAS IN ACCORD WITH LOGICAL ROLE AS BRIDGE-BUILDER TO EASTERN EUROPE AND PROMOTER OF DETENTE, TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF HELSINKI ACCORD. THEREFORE, WHEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, GOA, CHANCELLOR, OR AUSTRIAN MEDIA HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS SPOKEN OUT PUBLICLY ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT, PARTICULARLY REGARDING OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EE COUNTRIES AND SOVIET UNION. THIS POSITION ACCORDS WITH BROADER AUSTRIAN ONE OF HUMANITARIANISM (ASYLUM, ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, DISASTER AID, ETC.) AS ONE OF BASIC PRINCIPLES OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1955 STATE TREATY.

2. GOA ENVISAGES A COMPLETE, OBJECTIVE, AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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POLEMICAL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF MAIN BELGRADE CSCE MEETING. THERE SEEMS HOWEVER TO BE SOME CONCERN IN AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL QUARTERS, AS YET NOT PUBLICLY ARTICULATED, THAT REVIEW AT BELGRADE FOCUSED TOO MUCH UPON BASKET III COULD, IF WESTERN MEDIA COVERAGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ANY INDICATION, BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

MFA OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO QUESTIONED PRIVATELY KREISKY'S PAST ENTHUSIASM AND EFFORTS TO GENERATE BIG WESTERN CONFERENCE TO COORDINATE POSITIONS IN PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE AND WERE RELIEVED THAT ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE INSTEAD TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE AS FACE-SAVING COUNTER TO KREISKY INITIATIVE. GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT KREISKY PROPOSAL WAS REALLY AIMED AT GETTING KREISKY INTO SETTING WITH STATEMEN OF MAJOR WESTERN POWERS FOR DISCUSSION OF BROADER WESTERN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR FUTURE.

3. CHANCELLOR VIEWS BOTH EAST-WEST DETENTE AND CONTINUED STRONG U.S. PRESENCE IN EUROPE AS SINE QUA NON FOR AUSTRIA'S CONTINUED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.BUCHANAN

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